

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information contact: Guy Signor

Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2011

BEACON LIGHT TEACHER RECIEVES EXCELLENCE AWARD

James Johnson, Science teacher at Beacon Light's Custer City private school has been notified by the National Headquarters of the Civil Air Patrol that he has been awarded the CAP Aerospace Education Excellence Award for his aeronautics and avionics summer school class completed this summer as a NASA Summer of Innovation Program. Mr. Johnson completed the Civil Air Patrol "Top Flights" program as a Honeywell Scholarship winner at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, this past summer.

The NASA Summer of Innovation (SOI) program is designed to support student interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by strengthening the capacity of organizations or schools that inspire and engage female, minority or high poverty middle school students in STEM content. The SOI focuses on organizations that provide student experiences during the summer and through extended learning efforts designed to keep students involved in NASA-themed STEM activities during the academic year.

The Summer of Innovation (SOI) supports student interest in STEM by strengthening the capacity of community and school-based organizations that inspire and engage middle school students in STEM content during the summer.

The NASA Summer of Innovation (SOI) Mini-Grant Program selects exemplary community based middle-school student and teacher programs which desire to integrate Summer of Innovation themes and content into their existing summer or afterschool programs.

NASA initiated the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, also known as Space Grant, in 1989. Space Grant is a national network of colleges, universities, industry, state and local governments, and other organizations. These institutions are working to expand opportunities for Americans to understand and

participate in NASA's aeronautics and space projects by supporting and enhancing science and engineering education, research and public outreach efforts.

Beacon Light schools operate educational programs throughout the year. The summer education programs generally focus on a particular topic, such as Civil War, Space, animal kingdoms, Indian tribes, etc. Classroom work is project related to the topic and usually includes field trips as part of the program.